

132nd Legislature

*Senate of
Maine*

Senate District 29

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*Testimony of Senator Anne Carney introducing
LD 2126, An Act to Eliminate the Juvenile Crime of Willful Refusal to Pay a Fine or
Comply with the Terms of a Court
before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
January 22, 2026*

Chair Kuhn and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, my name is Anne Carney, I represent Senate District 29 and I am honored to introduce LD 2126, “An Act to Eliminate the Juvenile Crime of Willful Refusal to Pay a Fine or Comply with the Terms of Court.”

LD 2126 is a Maine Department of Corrections bill that seeks to resolve an error in last year’s LD 1849, “An Act to Establish a Minimum Age at Which Conduct Constitutes a Juvenile Crime and to Confer Jurisdiction to the Juvenile Courts Over Any Criminal Offense Under Maine Law Committed by a Juvenile.” LD 1849 brought all Title 12 and Title 29-A crimes into the juvenile code. However, its Section H created an inconsistency in treatment of adults and juveniles who fail to pay a fine or comply with a court order – with juveniles facing criminal charges to which adults are not subject. Section H is also duplicative, as the Juvenile Code already contains a provision (15 MRSA § 3314(7)) authorizing a contempt proceeding against a juvenile who fails to comply with a court order. This statute provides a sufficient mechanism for enforcing the court’s authority without creating a new juvenile crime for conduct that would not be criminal if committed by an adult.

LD 2126 seeks to rectify this inconsistency by eliminating the juvenile crime of willful refusal to pay a fine or comply with a court order, and I urge you to support it. Thank you for your consideration, and please direct questions to Jill O’Brien of the Maine Department of Corrections.